

Dustin Monroe
Madame Chair and Committee members,

I come before you to oppose **House 428** because it would infringe on the right to vote for Rural Montana and Native Americans.

Section 2 of the bill gives the power to counties to choose, Vote by only for any election, it just gets rid of the exceptions. So side-by-side counties could take up different stances or conduct county races by ballots only, federal by vote by mail only, and state by both? Creating confusion among the voters and adding a fiscal reasonability to the counties for paying for the vote by mail. Who pays that Bill for the envelopes; additional forms needed, and returned postage cost for the ballots?

Mail only ballots created a fiscal responsibility among the counties or on the individual voter who now must either pay more in taxes to cover this counties cost or make sure they drive to post office just to vote.

This vote by mail bill has been killed in past sessions because of the cost to the state and other reasons. How will counties overcome the cost option? Also hours of the post offices are being cut from no delivery on Saturday and in recent years the federal post service was on the cutting block for rural post offices.

Native Americans

Montana Absentee Ballot Counts by County

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Updated Daily

County Name	Number Sent	Number Received	Returned in targeted precincts	Native Average Precincts (%)	Non-Native Average Precincts (%)	County Average Precincts (%)
Glacier	2,537	2,076	1,204	47.46	52.54	81.8
Roosevelt	1,528	1,302	723	47.32	52.68	85.2
Valley	2,411	2,331	15	0.62	99.38	96.7
Lake	7,099	6,651	2,092	29.47	70.53	93.7
Sanders	3,892	3,682	375	9.64	90.36	94.6
Blaine	1,064	987	448	42.11	57.89	92.8
Big Horn	1,502	1,276	518	34.49	65.51	85.0
Hill	3,629	3,461	123	3.39	96.61	95.4
Chouteau	1,433	1,377	13	0.91	99.09	96.1
Rosebud	1,537	1,386		0.00	100.00	90.2
	26,632	24,529	5,511	21.54	78.46	91.1
Total				23.93219804		